

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1903.

London Office of THE SUN,  
40, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, London, E.C. 4.  
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### An Inlet for Poverty and Disease.

The town of St. Vincent is situated on the Red River at the extreme northwestern corner of Minnesota. This is the point where the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railroad leaves Minnesota and enters Canadian territory, becoming there a branch of the Canadian Pacific.

A glance at the map will show that the railroad line from Montreal to Minnesota or North Dakota by way of Winnipeg is almost direct. St. Vincent is the gateway to our West for immigrants who come from Canada, or through Canada; and it is therefore one of the most important points to guard on the whole frontier.

A correspondent of the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press* telegraphed as follows from St. Vincent on Jan. 19:

"Some interesting facts were brought to the notice of the Klinton County Commissioners at their recent meeting in regard to an alarm increase of pauper immigration into the Canadian Pacific from the Allan of steamers from Montreal to St. Vincent. These steamers have recently arrived at St. Vincent. Many of the authorities for their first time in the United States, six cases of leprosy have developed in this country since this class of emigrants, and which is the latest case. It is estimated that the steamship companies have been sending undesirable passengers over the boundary through this locality on the supposition that the climate is lower in this vicinity than it is around St. Vincent."

If these statements are accurate, the system of supervision now practiced at St. Vincent cannot be rectified too soon.

Congress should inquire, if necessary, into the extent to which the Hon. WILLIAM L. SCOTT'S Canadian Pacific Railway has been landing on American territory pauper or diseased immigrants who could never pass the authorities at Castle Garden.

### The Paragon of Assistant Doorkeepers.

We possess a precious copy of the code of studies and etiquette issued on Jan. 4, 1903, from the Government Printing Office at Washington for the guidance of the Messengers and Doorkeepers employed around the Hall of Representatives. The type and typographical style identify this document beyond the possibility of mistake as a product of the Government press; but it was not intended as a public document, and probably only a limited edition was printed.

Mr. JOHN O. HOUK is the principal assistant and executive officer of Mr. CHARLES W. ADAMS, Commander-in-Chief of the noble band who guard the swinging doors of the legislative chamber, and yank sleepy Afrikaners off the benches in the gallery. Mr. HOUK is the author of the remarkable essay on the art of keeping doors which has now been printed in the official type that sometimes carries the weight of a President's Message or a Secretary of the Treasury's annual report. We bring our quotations from Assistant Doorkeeper HOUK's stirring reminder to his subordinates that they are under oath to keep door faithfully and well:

"I beg respectfully to remind you that we—the employees—take an oath and faithfully to discharge our duties."

"If we know our duties and fail to endeavor manfully to discharge them, we are not only derelict in our duty—who is held strictly accountable for our official conduct—but we are recreant to our oath, and should be shamefully dismissed."

"If we do not learn our duties with regard to the privileges of the Hall, we should be discharged for incapacity."

With earnestness, eloquence, and subtle, yet gentle irony, the principal Assistant Doorkeeper urges the lesser Assistant Doorkeepers not to swing the doors for people who have no right to enter, even if he, HOUK himself, should beg them to violate their solemn oaths:

"When Rule 34, which excludes every person not therein mentioned in force, there can be no 'unwritten rule' by which we can admit to the privilege of the Hall persons not provided for in that rule."

"As I believe, we have no discretion in the matter, but are bound by the letter of the rule, and cannot honestly evade its provisions. We should not be in our (not try not to) every violation of the rule."

"Most of us may think—certainly I do—that the rule should be enlarged so as to include certain other persons, but I am sure that it is safer for us that we let (I) the House do the enlarging."

"I will add that your authority at the doors and your obligation to enforce the rule are as great as mine."

"If at any time you present to me for my signature a copy of the House Rules, I must and will sign it, and you will have the manhood to prevent the attempt from being successful."

"We have no right to ask you to admit any person against the rule. If it should so ask, it is your duty to refuse to do so."

Next comes a beautiful passage in which Mr. HOUK asserts his own untarnished manhood and lays down certain moral principles for the benefit of his subordinates:

"The Doorkeeper neither confers, nor did I accept, my appointment with the understanding, expressed or implied, that it was any part of my duty to act as a spy and eavesdropper. My duty is to guard the door, and I have no conception of the duties of his assistant, and do not expect such action on my part. I shall deal with you as one gentleman should deal with another, and not attempt to backbite any one of you—Democrat or Republican."

"There is but little difference between a thief and a backbiter—one steals your purse, the other your reputation."

"If I have any complaint to make I will first come to you like a man, and if then we fail promptly to improve matters I will lay the trouble, with your knowledge, before the Doorkeeper."

In regard to the more practical and social aspects of the business of doorkeeping, Assistant Doorkeeper HOUK's intellectual grasp is equally comprehensive and his moral attitude equally fine:

"I will have no leaders in a private society is ominous to me. I will not say that it will be a good thing for your duties immediately to become personally acquainted with the Chairman, members and clerk of the committee to which you are assigned."

"Having had experience with the members of the committee, I have no doubts as to your conduct toward those with whom you will come in contact in the discharge of your duties, which, too often, are difficult and tedious."

"I believe you will faithfully help me enforce the rule without much help. I am powerless, and I feel sure we will be helped to each other, loyal to our chief, and thereby do much to make the House a better place."

"I shall beg you first to learn your duties thoroughly, and then your sense and honor will 'order' you to take the next step."

If these injunctions are loyally obeyed, the humblest Territorial Delegate, the obscurest member of the Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics, may be sure of civil treatment at the swinging doors. This is as it should be under a democratic government, founded on democratic principles; and it is particularly gratifying that Mr. HOUK's last thought before laying aside his able pen was to be prompted by kindly feelings toward the newspaper press of the United States. The didactic proclamation to the doorkeepers ends as follows:

"A few more words. We should be kind and obliging to every person, and break a law no one, however high and influential."

"But I volunteer to suggest that the House of Representatives is not a 'Star Chamber' controlled by and for the few."

"It belongs to and is regulated by and for the people of the United States, who daily demand information concerning their great machine."

"And, in order to get that information, they keep at Washington, by subscribing for and supporting the newspapers of the country, a corps of correspondents, with whom we will be in constant communication."

"By this, if every country we extend to the press our newspaper fraternity is a country extended to the people."

the people at large, and that we should always specially favor them when we can under the rule."

"This is strictly an unofficial communication. It is personal and private."

"I write because I cannot find time and opportunity to speak this much to each of you before the House reconvenes."

"If I am wrong on any of my propositions, I will be righted."

"I am, your friend,  
"WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4, 1903."

This letter is a darling. It is fortunate that Mr. HOUK had no time to see his subordinates personally and to communicate with them verbally. His teachings might have gone in at one ear and out at the other, as through a ringing green balsa door leading to oblivion. It is fortunate, likewise, that after he had written down on paper these priceless precepts, the near neighborhood of the Government Printing Office suggested to Mr. HOUK the idea of having the document printed, like a President's Message or a Department Report. Thus there is preserved for us, in the most official typography known to mankind, the wisdom and the moral philosophy of the most interesting Assistant Doorkeeper that ever bowed with courtesy grace to an Incoming Senator or kicked a brass wamwaker out of the way of a tired statesman bound out for cold tea.

In these days of loose construction of statutory requirements, hazy notions of official responsibility and generally inadequate conception of public office as a public trust, it is deeply satisfactory to find an Assistant Doorkeeper of the old Roman stripe. How different is HOUK from that former Assistant Doorkeeper who found in this important and responsible office nothing more than an opportunity for personal vanity to exploit itself, and who wrote home to Texas that he was now a "bigger man than old GRANT."

Happy subordinates in the green baize department of Congress who have in their executive officer such a guide, philosopher, and friend! Happy Doorkeeper ADAMS to have such an Assistant as HOUK!

Recent Incidents in the Reichstag.

No one doubts that the militarism which stifles the liberties of Germany, and for which BISMARCK is mainly responsible, will last as long as the Chancellor. But how long will it survive him? How long will the young Emperor be able, after losing his principal adviser, to withstand the clamor for Ministerial accountability to the people's representatives? Who else but BISMARCK can govern in defiance of the fundamental principle of the parliamentary system? Indications of the trouble reserved for his successor have been discernible during the last week of debate on the anti-Socialist bill in the Reichstag. Taunted by one of the Chancellor's lieutenants by being a Guelph, Dr. WINDTHORST, the leader of a hundred Clerical Deputies, admitted and gloried in the charge. Only a few days later the union of the so-called Cartel parties was shattered, the National Liberals refusing to allow the Government to expel the Socialists from Germany. Let us look at these incidents, and consider their bearing on the difficulties likely to confront the Minister on whom the mantle of BISMARCK shall fall.

What is a Guelph? A Guelph desires primarily the restitution to the House of Hanover of all its territorial rights in North Germany. In the second place, the principle on which this claim is founded would logically involve the restoration of the Duke of Hesse-Cassel, the Duke of Nassau, and all the other minor potentates whose domains were confiscated and incorporated with Prussia after the war of 1866. In short, the thorough application of Guelphic doctrine would cut down the area of Prussia to the dimensions which it possessed before the year last named. The position taken by the Guelphs is not indefensible on moral grounds as Dr. WINDTHORST has repeatedly demonstrated; neither is it inconsistent with the unity of Germany, although it unquestionably threatens the present overwhelming preponderance of Prussia. The confiscation of Hanover was a violation of law and equity seems clear, when we recall that in 1866 Prussia was a rebel against the Frankfurt Diet, whereas Hanover did but her duty in attempting to enforce the mandate of the Diet with regard to the disposition of the Elbe duchies. Hanover and the other minor potentates were not conquered by a war, but by a rebellion; and if the latter kingdom did not suffer the fate, it was because it was not needed to give continuity to the Prussian territory. What is here said of Hanover is true of all the smaller States incorporated by violence with Prussia in 1866.

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But while the Guelphs wish to restore home rule and local parliamentary government to the smaller countries swallowed up by Prussia in 1866, they would not disturb the fundamental institutions of the empire, which they recognize as indispensable to the unity of Germany and the national defense. Not only would they retain the Reichstag, but they would retain the Emperor, his power by exacting accountability of the Imperial Ministers. They would retain the Bundesrat or Federal Council, but, of course, the number of Prussia's representatives in that body would be cut down in proportion to the reduction of her territory. In a word, what the Guelphs aim at is to Germanize Prussia instead of permitting Germany to be Prussianized.

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### Deserters From Civilization.

The crew of the British bark Tewkesbury were brought to Portland, Oregon, in December. They had undergone a wretched experience of seven months among the savages of Carolina Island in the Pacific, where they were cast ashore by shipwreck, nearly starving. They say they would doubtless have been killed by the natives if it had not been for an Englishman named CHARLES INOHA, who had been left on the island four years ago by a trading vessel. INOHA has become a savage himself. He has seven wives, and is really the ruler of the little domain in which he intends to spend the rest of his life.

It would be interesting to know how many Europeans and Americans are scattered around among little islands in the Pacific that are seldom visited by vessels, and in other parts of the savage world, where, often voluntarily, they have abandoned nearly all civilized ways, and have become as barbarous as the people with whom they live. We know only that hundreds of whites are living under these conditions of savagery, and that the number is increasing. The German servant is still living in the Soudan, having deserted his master, MONTAGU KERN, a Portuguese in the heart of the continent among savages whom KERN was the first explorer to meet. TRIVIER's white companion recently deserted him on his trip across the continent. These renegades are found among the employees of trading companies on the west coast, where they sometimes take native wives and settle down with the determination never to leave the country. Others have even tried to ally themselves with Arctic nomads. In Nova Zembla, a few years ago, two members of a Norwegian exploring party chose to remain behind in the huts of some Samoyeds; but two years later, having wearied of their savage and uncomfortable surroundings, they appeared again in a civilization land.

The renegades from civilization, as a rule, anything but ornaments to their country. Often they seem to sink even lower than the savages with whom they cast their lot. The natives of Fiji came cheerfully under British rule, but not so the few white renegades, most of whom stole away to less attractive islands, when a civilized Government was established in Fiji. Travellers in the Pacific testify that the most worthless vagabonds among the islanders are the descendants of renegade whites, who long ago set up very large establishments here and there. Mr. ROMLEY mentions one of these old settlers in Rotumah. He had lived there forty years, and had become so thoroughly a native that he spoke English with the greatest difficulty. Scores of these men are found scattered far and wide over the Pacific who have no occupation, bitterly oppose any white men that come to trade at their islands, and are content if they have a large household of wives and can live without work. One traveler speaks of these specimens as "merely English savages of a low type."

There is abundant evidence that the Anglo-Saxon can transform himself into a savage with small loss of time, and with no violent change in his mental constitution.

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at home to the immense disadvantages of the white man. They were not much impressed by the Emperor's army, and said they thought MANDARA's great herd of cattle were much better worth seeing.

This picturesque potentate has been prominent figure in every description of Kilima-Njaro that has been written. Fearing that his success might lead to his being killed, he has been a constant target for the bullets of the white men, who have heard of the old fellow's death, at once sent an expedition to the great mountain to look after the German interest.

The Hon. RUSSELL, ALEXANDER ALDERA seems to be enjoying himself in Washington. There is something about Washington which delights this bashful and shrinking candidate to the very midst of his misadventure. Tenderly as he is attached to Michigan—the attachment is somewhat less strong on his part—it is believed that he is certain contingencies he might be induced to live in Washington for as much as four years.

The foreign delegates to the Pan-American Congress have seen a good many queer things, but perhaps the queerest is the address of the W. C. T. U. executive committee, which has been served to and shared by them during their journeyings and languetings. One would naturally think that the ladies of the W. C. T. U. would have been surprised if nothing but ice water or manzanilla were offered to the visitors. Certainly the visitors would have been surprised, and children would have settled upon them.

Old Harvard graduates will be interested in the assertion of the *Boston Transcript* that a long list of the graduates of Harvard University have been killed by the war in the Philippines. It is worth living to hear a sophomore talk of the "war in the Philippines." It hardly seems worth while to give up athletic contests with Princeton for the sake of saying drama. The correct New England pronunciation of the word, by the way, is dramay, the final letter something as in *lin*.

A Washington Expert on New York Headlines.

From the Washington Sunday Herald.

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